



Florida House of Representatives

Representative Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed

House District 92

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Councils & Committees

COUNCILS:

Health & Family Services
Policy Council-Ranking
Member

COMMITTEES:

PreK-12 Appropriations
Committee

Elder & Family Services
Policy Committee

Roads, Bridges & Ports
Policy Committee

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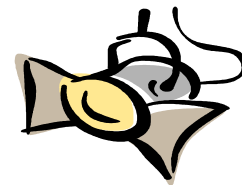
Legislative Assistant

Dawn Smith

District Executive Secretary

Kathryn Snyder

Spotlight on 2010 Session



Dear Constituents:

The 2010 session has come to an end. Many of the bills that were passed are now awaiting action from the governor. This session was very different from the previous one. Less money was available for much needed services and programs. Again trust fund dollars and federal economic stimulus funds were used to balance the budget.

A state compact with the Seminole Tribe over gaming rights also provided needed dollars for important priorities, such as education. Pre-K programs received an increase in funding, but due to an unexpected increase in enrollment, the additional funding is insufficient.

There were cuts in funding to nursing homes, hospitals, including a 7% cut of state payments to care of indigent patients. In my opinion, education and healthcare bills were the priorities.

Job producing efforts were limited. The unemployment problem received a boost from the extension of benefit payments, which passed at the beginning of session. The need for jobs continues to be a very pressing issue. The Back to School Tax Holiday bill passed the legislative session, it will be a three day tax free holiday.

The members of the House of Representatives, approved the budget to include funding for the health clinic at Deerfield Beach High School and the annexation of an unincorporated area of Tamarac.

The homeless population received attention by passage of HB 11, which makes attacks on the homeless a hate crime.

As session closed, amendments on the November ballot received lots of discussion. The amendment dealing with Fair and Redistricting of the House, Senate and Congress. This involves the drawing of the lines to determine the various districts in the State. Also, there will be an amendment dealing with Class Size.

Please feel welcome to call my office with any questions or concerns that you may have. Staff is available to assist you.

Regards,

Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed

Representative, House District 92



Rep. Clarke-Reed speaking
on House Floor

Budget

- The Legislative session began with the state facing a \$3 billion shortfall, which posed a huge challenge for state lawmakers responsible for writing the state budget. By session's end, the Legislature approved a \$70.4 billion budget.
- This budget relies on \$2.3 billion in federal stimulus money approved last year by President Obama and Congress, as well as monies from the Seminole Gaming Compact; which will inject approximately \$433 million into the spending plan. It also required a sweeping of state trust funds to reach its goal.
- I voted against the budget because it failed to provide for programs that are needed to sustain the quality of life for all Floridians. I believe that the budget does not hold education harmless and doesn't create a sufficient number of new jobs needed in Florida.
- The budget cuts impacted the "Healthy Families" program, Healthy Start coalitions; as well as county health departments, nursing homes and hospitals. In addition, it made cuts in the amount of scholarship monies awarded under the Bright Futures program.
- I believe that the needs of our most vulnerable folks will not be met in this budget due to the cuts in funding for nursing homes and hospitals.

Education Budget



Supporting Education

- In my opinion, Florida's education system would have suffered a tremendous set back if **Senate Bill 6 had become law.**
- I am pleased that Senate Bill 4 passed and became law. The bill will phase out the high school FCAT in math, science and writing; and it introduces the end-of-course exams in Algebra 1, Geometry, and Biology 1.
- This November, voters will have the opportunity to vote on a state constitutional amendment that supporters say will give the school administrators flexibility to meet the class size goals. I believe that changing the class size goal is very risky and threatens to unravel the progress we have made at reducing the number of students in our classrooms. **"The education of our youth is priority number one."**

Health Issues

Controlling Pain Management Clinics/Control Substances

We passed Senate bill 2272-Control Substances. This bill will crack down on corrupt "pill mills" by increasing regulation for pain clinics and physicians who own or work in a pain clinic. The bill adds criminal and financial penalties that will give law enforcement and prosecutors the help they need to stop this growing problem. Broward County has an unusual number of pain clinics.

Elder Care News

I recommended Mrs. Hazel Ambrister to the governor for appointment to the Department of Elderly Affairs Advisory Council. As a result of this recommendation, Mrs. Ambrister was appointed by the Secretary to the Department of Elder Affairs Advisory Council.

I also voted for having Defibrillators in nursing home facilities. This bill gives assistant living facilities 17 beds or more to possess functioning Automated External Defibrillators.



Cracking Down
on "Pill Mills"

Economic Development

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- The creation of jobs was another goal during this legislative session. Members of the Legislature have attempted to put Floridians back to work and keep our small businesses afloat. I sponsored an Economic Empowerment Symposium in the district. During the symposium, held on March 29th, the following agency made presentations: Agency for Workforce Innovation, Broward County Health Department, Small Biz Community & Economic Development Corporation and Opportunities Industrialization Center of Broward among other agencies and individuals. These are just a few of the many agencies that were present at the symposium. The event was well attended by the local community.
- Summer jobs for students are a must; and I support the continuation of summer jobs programs in our district.
- The Legislature passed the Tax-Free Holiday, three days for shopping for school supplies. Another bill we passed is holding down dramatic increases in unemployment tax rates for businesses for the next two years-increases that would have occurred otherwise and likely resulted in layoffs for Floridians.



**Economic Empowerment
Symposium**

Census Information

- The U.S. Census count will determine the number of House of Representatives, State Senators and members of Congress. In addition it will provide needed federal funds allocated to the State of Florida and Broward County. It is important that residents, who have not mailed their census form, cooperate with the census workers. The census workers will assist the resident with completion of their form. The census workers will be in the various communities from May 1, through July 10, 2010. It is important that everyone participates.



Important Phone Numbers



Census-1-866-861-2010

Hurricane-American Red Cross, Broward County Chapter-954-797-3800

Consumer Insurance Assistance-1-800-342-2762

Small Business Development Division-954-357-6400

ACCESS Florida-1-866-762-2237

Broward County Emergency Assistance-954-831-3900

Broward Special Need Registry-954-537-2888

Florida Elder Helpline-954-745-9779

Prescription Assistance-1-888-477-2669

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DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

With the Hurricane Season upon us, it is important that everyone is prepared should one arrive at our shores.

- **Learn about your community's emergency plans, warning signals, evacuation routes and locations of emergency shelters.**
- **Identify potential home hazards and know how to secure or protect them before the hurricane strikes.**
- **Buy a fire extinguisher and make sure your family knows where to find it and how to use it.**
- **Locate and secure your important papers, such as insurance policies, wills, licenses, stocks etc.**
- **Post emergency phone numbers at every phone.**
- **Fill your vehicle's gas tank.**
- **If no vehicle is available, make arrangements with friends or family for transportation.**
- **Fill your clean water containers.**
- **Water/food-at least enough to last for 3 to 7 days(non-perishable), including bottled water, juices and snack foods.**
- **Non-electric can opener, paper plates and plastic utensils.**
- **Flashlights, batteries, portable radios, waterproof tarps.**
- **Refill all medications.**
- **Please check your cities for their emergency plans.**

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